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Work of the

Conference Committee
ON
National Preparedness

1918

"The permanent peace of the world can be secured only through the gradual concentration of preponderant military strength in the hands of the most pacific nations."—John Fisk.

ONE MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Conference Committee on National Preparedness

NEW YORK CITY

Office of the Secretary:
Metropolitan Life Building
One Madison Avenue

Phone, Gramercy 2168

Officers:

HENRY A. WISE WOOD.....Chairman
RAYMOND B. PRICE.....Treasurer
JAMES E. CLARK.....Secretary

Gift
League for the Preservation of
American Independence
Jl. 24 '17

PRESS OF
EATON & GETTINGER
NEW YORK

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Published at the request of several of the Committee's subscribers, who wish to have its work brought more prominently to the attention of the public.

Army Recruiting Poster for which the Committee awarded a prize of $250

Work of the

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

"It is better to be always prepared than to suffer once."—Latin Proverb.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS was organized at the clubhouse of the Aero Club of America, on June 3, 1915. Its purpose was to create a clearing-house for the exchange of ideas by those who were active in the preparedness movement, and to supplement the work of the patriotic organizations which existed at that time. At its first meeting the present chairman was chosen to conduct its affairs.

The following letter, which was sent the President of the United States on June 17, 1915, expresses the position of the Committee with respect to the national duty:

HONORABLE WOODROW WILSON,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to hand you herewith the accompanying resolution of the Conference Committee on National Preparedness. In doing this I beg leave to express for the Committee its wish so to pursue the object for which it was formed that the activities of the Committee shall serve to promote the work of the authorities in strengthening and rendering more efficient our military and naval forces.

Our position is this: We believe that our citizens, because of their ignorance of the height of perfection to which military and naval affairs abroad have been carried, have failed to realize and to impress upon their representatives in Congress the need for similar progress in the development of our own defensive establishments.

Also, we believe that this neglect of the progress made in military science in Europe has been promoted and strengthened by the propagation in this country of the belief that international relationships had reached a point at which it was

Compliments of
The Conference Committee on National Preparedness.
One Madison Avenue, New York City.

GERMAN VS. AMERICAN NAVAL STRATEGY

By Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, U. S. N.
Formerly Aide for Operations, U. S. Navy.

The most important element connected with a navy is the strategy which directs it, in accordance with which all its plans are laid – plans for preparation before war and plans for operations during war. Strategy is to a navy what mind is to a man. It determines its character, its composition, its aims; and so far as external conditions will permit, the results which it accomplishes.

One dislikes intensely to criticize his own country, even to himself. But when a naval officer is studying - as he should continually do - what must be done, in order to protect his country from attack by some foreign foe, it would be criminal folly for him to estimate the situation otherwise than honestly; and to do this, it is necessary to try to see where his country is weak and where strong, relatively to the possible foes in question. If we do this, and compare the strategical methods employed by - say Germany and us - we are forced to admit that the German methods are better adapted to producing economically a navy fitted to contend successfully in war against an enemy. In Germany the development of the navy has been strictly along the lines of a method carefully devised beforehand; in our country no method whatever is apparent, at least no logical method. Congress, and Congress alone, decides what vessels and other craft shall be built, how many officers and men shall wear the uniform. It is true that they consult the report of the Secretary of the Navy, and ask the opinions of some naval officers; and it is true that the Secretary of the Navy gets the opinions of certain naval officers including the General Board, before making his report. But both the Secretary and Congress estimate the situation from their own points of view, and place their own value on the advice of naval officers. And the advice of these naval officers is not so valuable, possibly as it might be; for the reason that it is really irresponsible, since the advisers themselves know that it will not be taken very seriously. The difference between the advice of men held responsible for the results of following their advice, and the advice of men not so held responsible, is well recognized, and is discussed fully in the reports of the Moody and the Swift Boards on the organization of the Navy Department. Furthermore, our officers do not have the machinery of the Kriegspiel to help them. It is true that at the

no longer conceivable that any dispute could arise which would refuse to yield to temperate discussion or arbitration.

We are convinced that the ignorance of military progress and the conviction that the coming of war to this country had for all time ceased to be a possibility have so affected our people, our legislators, and our governmental officials that until recently they had been led to hold a sense of security not warranted by the actual conditions existing anywhere else throughout the world.

Realizing as we do the extent of the military arrears into which the American people has permitted itself to fall, we cannot fail to ask ourselves what likely should have been our penalty had we before the beginning of the present struggle found ourselves called upon to resist by force aggression upon our rights at home, or upon our possessions, or the Monroe Doctrine, which we hold we must maintain at any cost.

The answer to this question is to be found in the behavior of one of the European belligerents within the territory of its antagonists, and the almost unbelievable force which it has been able to exert upon its enemies. Unquestionably it is to the effect that in the event of such an occurrence we should have suffered heavily in lives and property during the long period which it would have required for us to place ourselves in position to offer an effective resistance, and to drive out the invader. Meanwhile we should probably have lost part of our oversea possessions, and have been compelled to witness the fall of the Monroe Doctrine and a permanent foothold gained by our enemy elsewhere in this hemisphere.

This merely illustrates the fact that our statesmen and our people alike have been guilty of remissness, that they have wholly failed to see the danger which we now perceive to have been actual, and to prepare to meet it.

This being so, we hold the view that it is the duty of every American citizen to do all that lies within his power to correct at once the consequences of this unfortunate failure of foresight, so that should an emergency suddenly be thrust upon us we shall be able to cope with it at its very inception by previously prepared defenses, defenses which shall be sufficient to prevent our enemy from obtaining a secure foothold upon our own soil from which to conduct his campaign.

Now, in order to aid in bringing about what they believe to be an adequate state of preparedness, the organizations which touch in this Committee have so met in order to concentrate the combined energies of all upon the work of educating our people in the necessities of preparedness and in the means by which security may be got, and of aiding the authorities in obtaining from Congress the moneys, the power, and the freedom needed to achieve this.

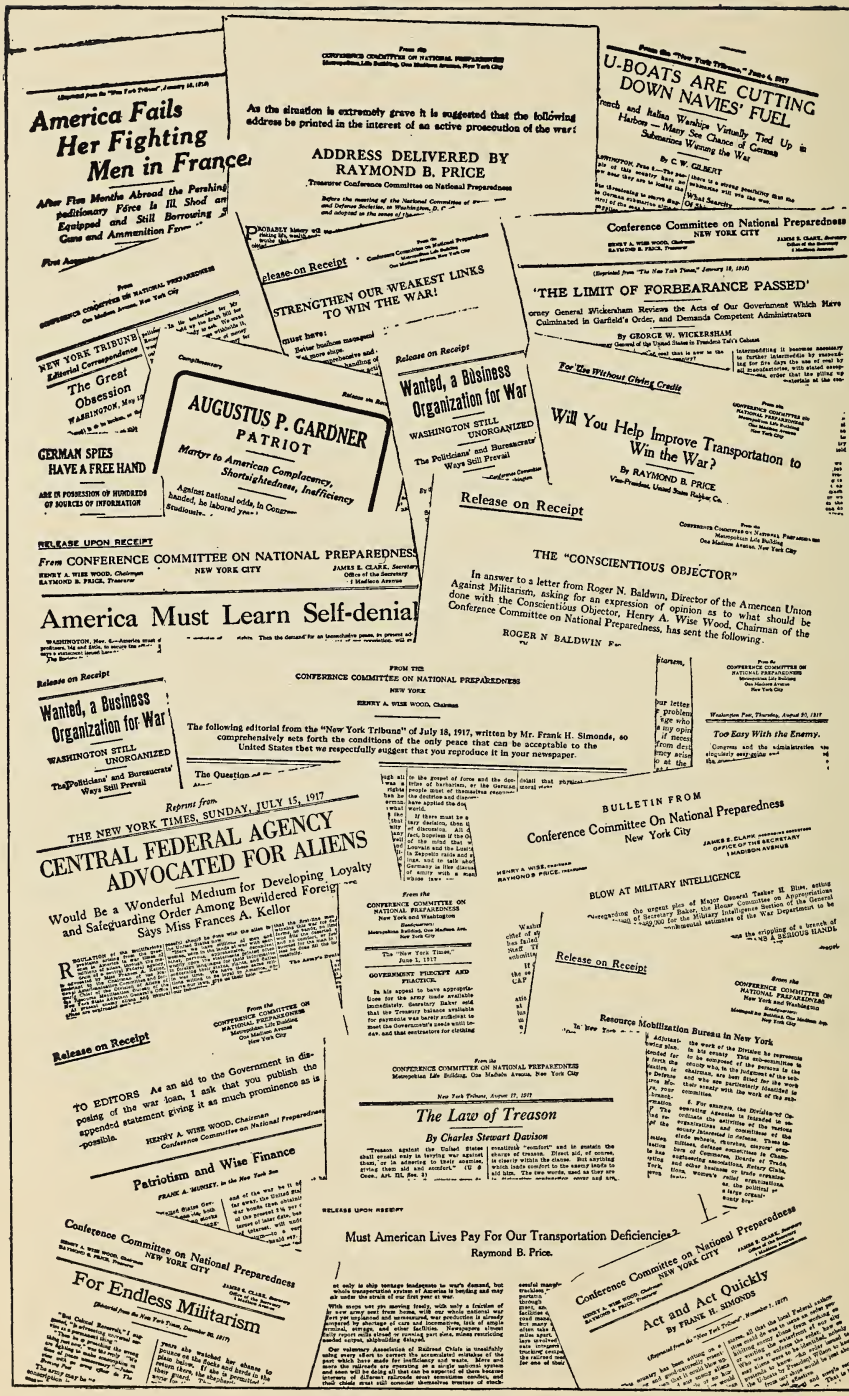
I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) HENRY A. WISE WOOD,
Chairman.

The resolution follows:

> *"Resolved, that the Chairman express to the President of the United States the earnest desire of this committee and its associated organizations to cooperate within their respective spheres in furthering any plans of the administration for strengthening and perfecting the national defenses in any respect in which the President believes this cooperation may be made effective."*



Types of our Educational Bulletins

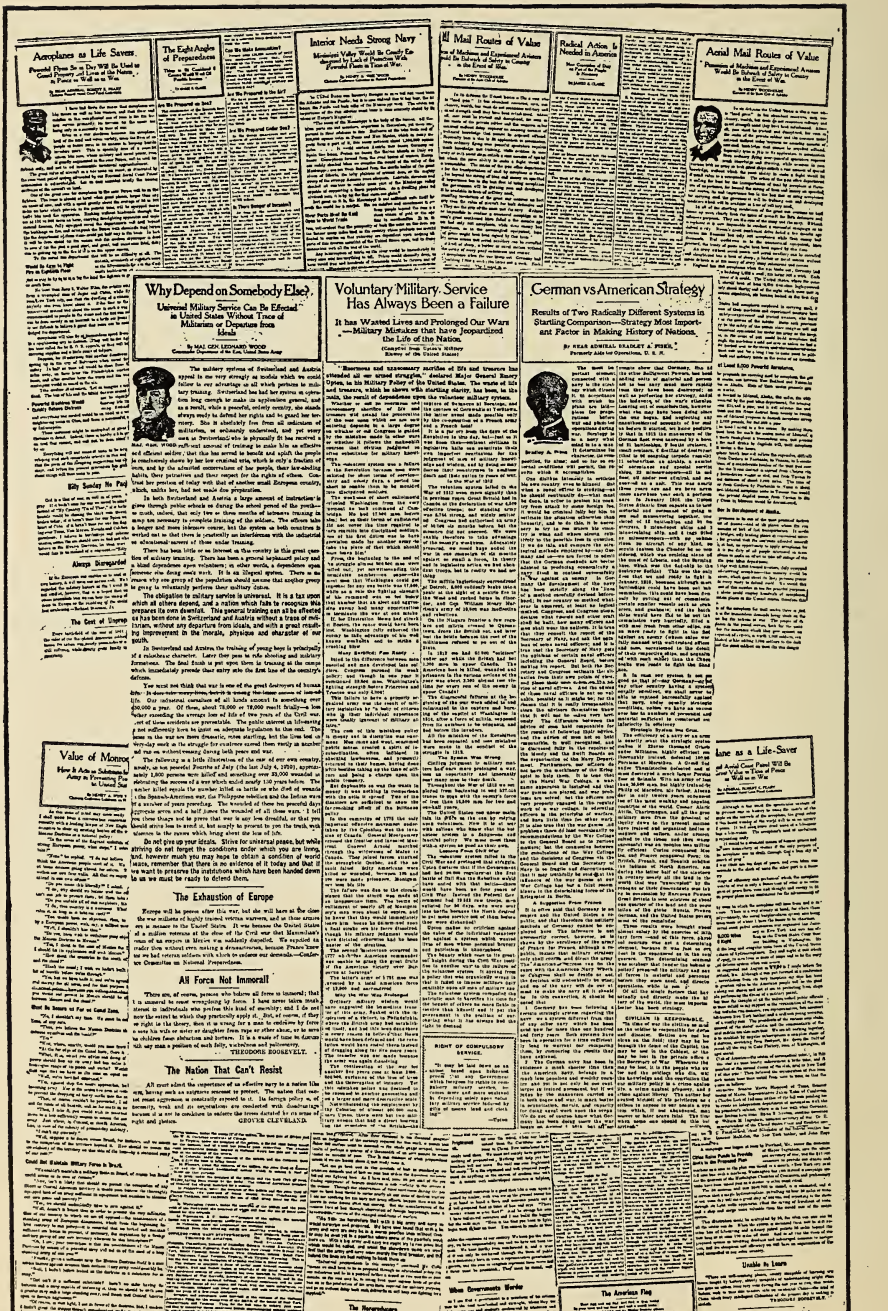
WHILE CHANGES in the structure and composition of the Committee have occurred from time to time, the conduct of its affairs and its policy have remained continuously in the same hands, in those of Raymond B. Price, Alan R. Hawley, Henry Woodhouse, and its Chairman, and of James E. Clark, its Secretary. The Committee has had the cooperation and guidance of leading men and women, and officials of the Federal and State Governments.

The Committee has now become an educational and inspirational force of no mean power; it has been for the press a valuable and trustworthy source of information, and for a large and influential part of our people a helpful means of enabling them to make the patriotism of their respective communities effective.

It will be recalled that when the outbreak of the war in Europe gave proof that the United States had long been living in a fool's paradise there was little if any sentiment in favor of increasing our national defenses at all, much less upon a plan adequate to our needs. On the contrary, there was all over the land a clamor for the continuance of our state of defenselessness, as the best means for preserving peace and protecting our national liberties. The first work of the Conference Committee was to oppose this, and to strengthen and quicken what sentiment there was for preparations for defense; to supplant apathy with active interest, and to arouse all to the manifold dangers of pacifism.

The work of the Conference Committee therefore has been one of education, in which those whom it sought to educate were either indifferent or violently prejudiced against any military measures of protection. To give the details of this campaign, in which approximately a million books, posters, pamphlets, other pieces of literature, and letters and telegrams have been sent out, is neither practicable nor useful. But as a means to an understanding of the work the Committee has done, we have illustrated herein the *methods* by which we have sought to form and direct public opinion.

Much of our effort has been aimed at giving proper direction and information to those who in turn address the people. For instance, in the early days of our work, when preparedness had not become an issue, the Conference Committee induced a large number of patriotic clergymen to discuss the need of preparedness in their Thanksgiving sermons. So ably was this matter handled by leading divines that the clergy of the United States soon lent a strong hand to the movement for adequate military preparations. In the unification of the nation for national defense there has been no factor more powerful than the splendid aid given from the pulpit by patriotic clergymen.



Aeroplanes as Life Savers.

The Eight Angles of Preparedness

Interior Needs Strong Navy

Mail Routes of Value

Radical Action Is Needed in America

Aerial Mail Routes of Value

Why Depend on Somebody Else?

Universal Military Service Can Be Effected in United States Without Trace of Militarism or Departure from Ideals

By MAJ. GEN. LEONARD WOOD

Voluntary Military Service Has Always Been a Failure

It has Wasted Lives and Prolonged Our Wars —Military Mistakes that have Jeopardized the Life of the Nation.

German vs American Strategy

Results of Two Radically Different Systems in Starting Comparison—Strategy Most Important Factor in Making History of Nations.

By REAR ADMIRAL BRADLEY A. FISKE,

Value of Monroe

Lane as a Life-Saver

The Exhaustion of Europe

All Force Not Immorall

The Nation That Can't Resist

Right of Compulsory Service

The Hereproducers

The American Flag

Unable to Learn

United States Can Be Invaded

Specimen Pages from our 1916 Campaign

AWAKENING AND EDUCATION OF THE MASSES

THIS WORK has been carried on through the following principal channels:

Newspapers and Magazines.
Conventions held from time to time by Associations, Professions, Fraternities, Trades, etc.
Direct appeal to officials and private individuals, by means of letters, telegrams, etc.
Distribution of appropriate books, pamphlets, and leaflets.
Preparation and distribution of posters.
Making of public addresses.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

NEWSPAPERS fall into two great classes—the metropolitan papers in which all matter is set in their own offices, and the smaller publications which use printing plates or printed sheets sent from the large cities. To the first class we have sent matter substantially every fortnight, discussing one or another phase of the need for preparations for national defense.

The article, *German* vs. *American Strategy,* by Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, page 6, is typical of this form of our propaganda. Articles of this class, of which the Committee has sent out many, have been of inestimable value in molding the public thought which eventuated in national legislation.

By means of similar articles, furnished to rural daily and weekly papers, we have carried the appeal for practical patriotism to the men and women removed from the centers of population.

Page 10 shows several of a series that have been furnished to 2,000 newspapers, in substantially all States of the Union. Assuming that these rural papers have an average of only 1,000 copies each, these articles were placed in the hands of no less than two million persons. But their influence, however, did not end there, for each newspaper in rural districts is usually read by from three to five persons. In each case our endeavor was to suit our matter to the needs of the moment and the particular class it was desired to instruct.

We have resorted also to Sunday newspapers. Long before our own entry into the war we had published in these three classes of newspapers a series of articles on the military mistakes made by the United States in the past. It was obviously necessary to guard our people against the plausible sophistries that in other wars had led them to needless wastes of men and money. That there has been no

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED
Fast Day Message
Day Letter
Night Message
Night Letter
Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE TELEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FAST DAY MESSAGE.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Form 1206
Receiver's No.
Check
Time Filed

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

April 7, 1917.

Editor,
Grand Rapids Press,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Please suggest to the prominent men of your City the vital importance of immediately holding a patriotic mass meeting with the most forceful speakers obtainable in order to stimulate army and navy recruiting.

The duration of the war now depends upon the speed with which our armies are recruited. Any holding back will lengthen the war, encourage the enemy and irreparably injure the United States in the opinion of the whole world, whereas, the moral effect of speed in recruiting will, by hastening the day of peace, save many lives.

HENRY A. WISE WOOD, Chairman,

Conference Committee on National Preparedness.

HAWW:NGC

CONVENTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS - The future peace and prosperity of the United States depend upon its ability to defend its rights at home and abroad and its shores against invasion and

WHEREAS - Nearly three years of war overseas have shown us the absolute necessity of a citizenry trained to arms, and

WHEREAS - Our own history has demonstrated the folly of depending for defense upon raw, untrained, hastily gathered troops, therefore, for the safety of the nation and its rights be it

RESOLVED - That it is the sense of this convention that legislation should be immediately enacted providing for the military training of all young men so that in the hour of need all shall be able to perform their fundamental duty to the nation.

Upper—Form of Direct Appeal Used at Declaration of War
Lower—Convention Resolution used by us During Early Stage of Preparedness Movement

popular demand to repeat old errors is largely due to the fact that the public has become familiar with the history of these errors, and the disasters which resulted from them.

As Congressional action is always influenced by what the people "back home" think, and as the thoughts of these people are readily shaped by their reading, the importance of reaching voters through their favorite home newspapers is so great that this work must go on without interruption. The war has by no means aroused all in the nation from their lethargy. Too many of our people are still incapable of realizing that any responsibility rests upon them,—that any sacrifice should be made by them. There are indeed many whom it has only begun to make receptive to new thoughts. Upon these we and others must continue to work, as upon all classes, if solidarity and effective mass action are to be achieved.

For educational purposes the Committee has persistently sent out to the Press of the United States, to both Houses of Congress, and to an extensive body of influential citizens, the most instructive articles and editorials which have come to its notice in American publications. Bulletins of this class are illustrated on page 8.

CONVENTIONS

THERE ARE THOUSANDS of yearly conventions held in the United States. Almost every trade, every fraternity, every profession, every calling, has its State and National conclaves, and through these conventions men, whose interests could not be aroused by any other means, have often been reached and influenced. With the cooperation of chambers of commerce, commercial associations, and trade associations, the Committee, for instance, during the period preceding the passage of the first great navy and army war bills, sent an appeal to each such convention offering to furnish a speaker and requesting the adoption of resolutions, some of them similar to that which appears on page 12. The benefit derived was threefold. First, the needs of the army and navy were impressed on the delegates; second, the convention's action was reported in the newspapers in the convention city and the need of specific action therein advertised, and, finally, the resolution of the convention was carried back to subordinate bodies to be transmitted by them to their representatives in Congress.

DIRECT APPEAL

ONE FORM OF DIRECT APPEAL is illustrated by the letter to mayors, page 14, which presented to them the urgent need, which still exists, for universal military training, and urged their cooperation in securing it as a community benefit, as well as a national

Conference Committee on National Preparedness

NEW YORK CITY

HENRY A. WISE WOOD
CHAIRMAN

RAYMOND B. PRICE
TREASURER

JAMES E. CLARK
SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
METROPOLITAN LIFE BUILDING
ONE MADISON AVENUE
PHONE MADISON 8188

January 10th, 1917.

Hon. Thomas Van Lear, Mayor,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

I am writing you on the assumption that you and the principal citizens of your community, are always willing to do what you can for your own town and that you are especially willing to lend your influence to anything which will promote the security and save the lives of your fellow citizens.

You are doubtless aware that we are at a critical time in our life as a nation, far more critical than most men realize. A navy sufficient to restore our safety at sea is yet to be built. Last year's scheme to give us an army has failed. Even if the regular army as provided by the legislation of the last session of Congress were sufficient in size to repel an invasion the rate at which recruiting proceeds presages failure, and the mobilization of the National Guard on the border proves conclusively that if our nation depends upon such a system for defense this fallacy will produce immense disasters in the future, as it has done in the past.

Of the total number on the rolls of the National Guard at the call for mobilization nearly 47,657 were lost on account of physical disability, or for other reasons.

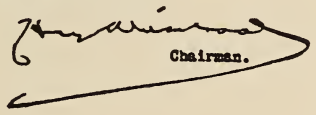
Of the total number who went to the border 128,000 - nearly one half, or 60,000 were without any military training; 56,813 had never fired a military rifle, and only 37 per cent of those who were enrolled when the call came were mustered into the service. Therefore, had our troops been called upon to face the troops of a first class, or even a second class power, the most appalling slaughter of our own people would have been inevitable.

Form of Appeal Used Prior to Declaration of War, That Old Military Errors Might Be Avoided

These figures are significant, but they are especially prophetic when you recall that in peace times one foreign nation can land 827,000 trained soldiers on our Atlantic coast in 46 days, another nation at present can land 238,000 seasoned troops on our Pacific coast in 63 days. Is it wise longer to leave our homes and our families unprotected when we can so easily raise an effective barrier against war's reaching to our own shores?

Universal military training and service is now our only safeguard against general disaster should war come with a first class military power. Without it we will never have an army sufficient to inspire the respect of predatory nations, and in the name of humanity and of patriotism, I ask you for the sake of the men and women of your own city, to give your influence to bring about this much needed change in our military system. If war comes as the result of our present, almost criminal negligence it will carry off the young men of your city just as have our past wars, so what better service could you render your fellow citizens than by helping so to shape conditions that we shall be made too secure to warrant any nation in attacking us?

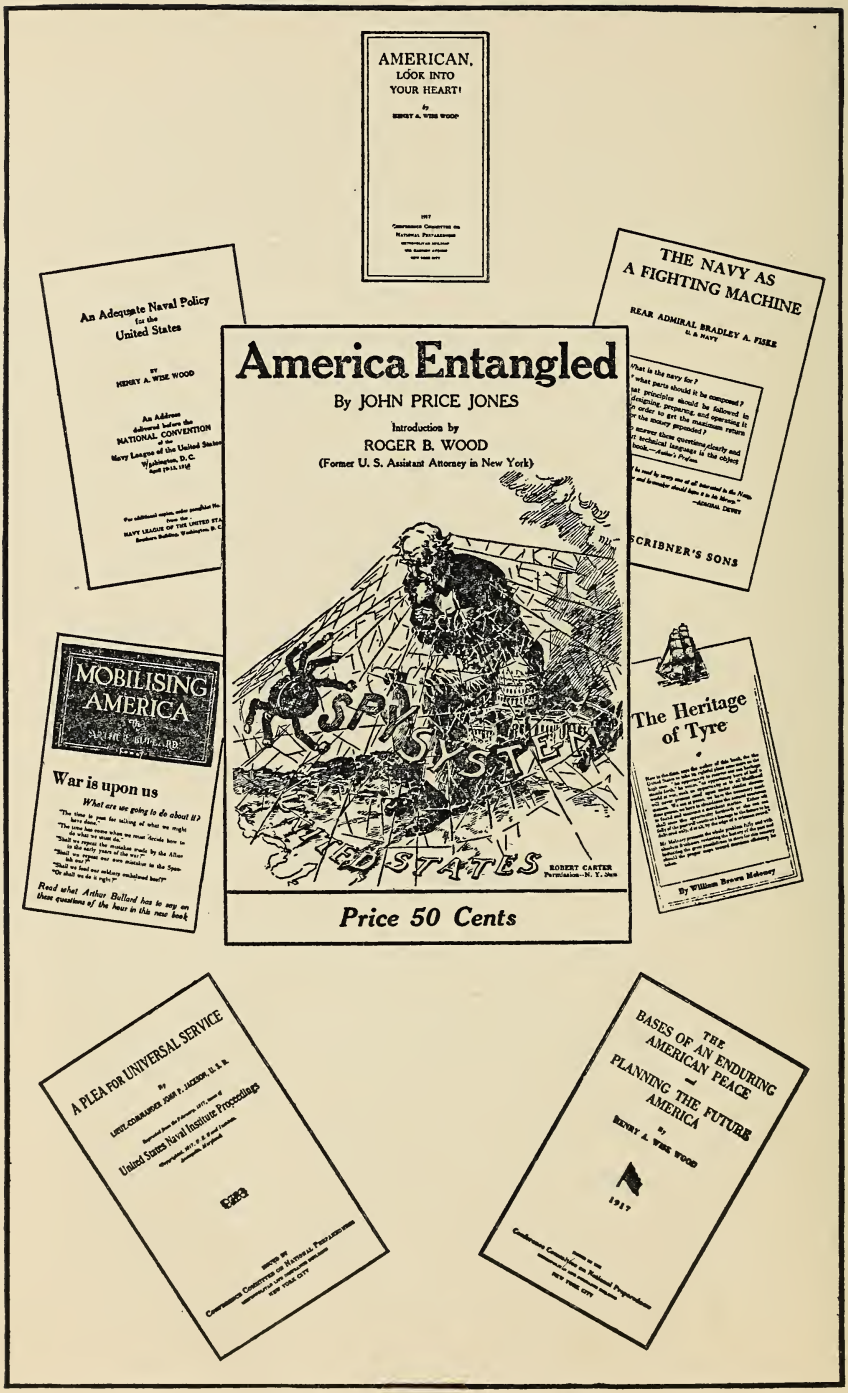
Yours very truly,



NOTE: To the letter printed above, Mayor Van Lear sent a reply in which among other things he said:

"I have time and energy to give to the organization of the common people for the purpose of relieving themselves of the commercial tyranny which betrays them, but I have only opposition to give to the efforts to organize the young men of America to gain for themselves and their families the same sort of protection that Germany's preparedness has meant for her common men."

The Conference Committee on National Preparedness felt that the people of Minneapolis were entitled to copies of the Mayor's letter and the Committee's reply thereto, and the publication of these letters, disclosing an amazing lack of loyalty on the part of a public official, so aroused the city that public meetings of protest were held by patriotic citizens, and an organization was formed to arouse the Northwest to the needs of the situation.



Books and Pamphlets Distributed

safeguard. The great number of replies received promising favorable action showed the value of our promptings. When there were unfavorable replies, as was the case of the Mayor of Minneapolis, he stating that he was opposed to all military training and service and any preparations for defense, these letters located places needing intensive work and enabled us to appeal directly to the community over the official's head. Such an appeal in the Minneapolis case brought about great mass meetings, and for the first time aroused that section of the country to the need of immediate action.

Another form of direct appeal, by wire, for specific action, is illustrated on page 12, a telegram sent to a long list of influential citizens in all important cities immediately after the Government had broken off relations with Germany. In one city, for instance, our telegram calling for action immediately set in motion forces which produced a meeting of 20,000 persons, whereat one hundred men volunteered for the army.

Still another form of direct appeal, which brought substantial results, is illustrated by the letter and enclosure to clergymen, reproduced on pages 32 and 33, and warning them of the dangers springing from the Kaiser's claims of an alliance with God.

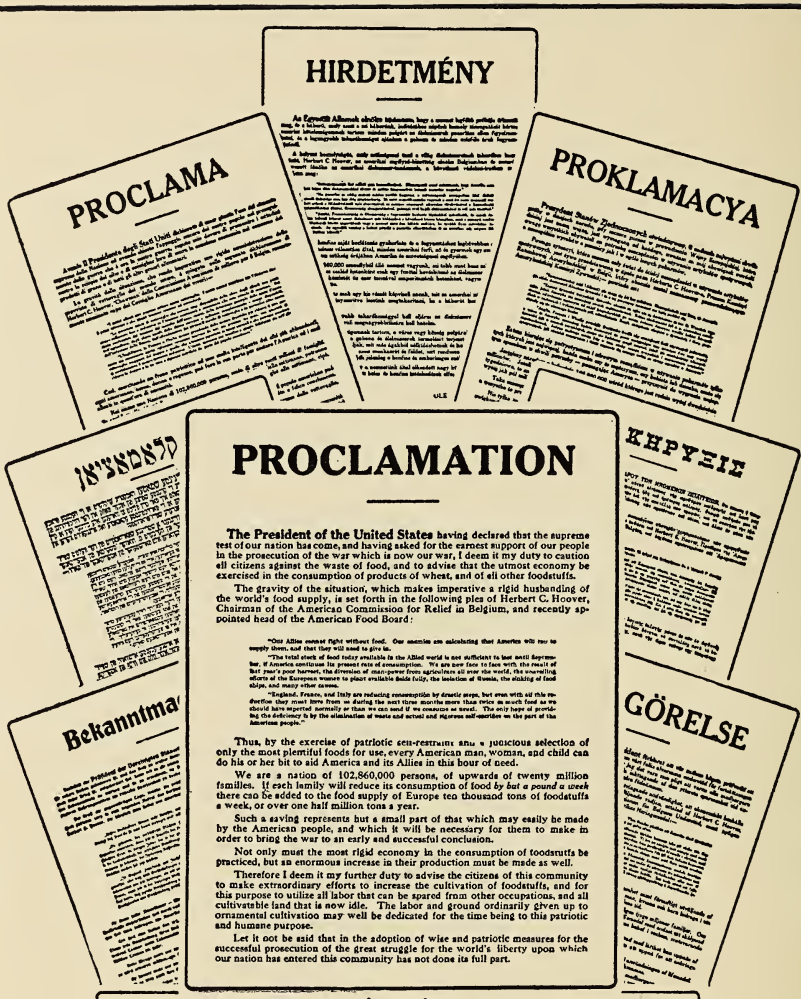
HISTORY-MAKING BOOKS

SOME BOOKS carry messages so great that they make new eras in history. Mahan's "*Influence of Sea Power Upon History*" is one of these. When the truths presented therein had been grasped by the great sea nations they immediately called home their battleships from foreign waters and assembled them at points vital to their security. Germany's sea power began with Mahan. Nevertheless, until the present war the American public, from whom the men who form the nation's policies at Washington are drawn, knew nothing of naval power. Mahan's lesson, Rear Admiral Fiske's book, "*The Navy As a Fighting Machine*" teaches. "Every law maker," said Admiral Dewey, "should have it in his library."

When Congress, in preparation for war, was about to take up the consideration of new naval legislation, the Committee presented a copy of Admiral Fiske's book to each member of both Houses, and the truths which are therein laid down by Fiske undoubtedly exerted a wholesome influence on the legislation which ensued, and assuredly will bear good fruit in the future.

A merchant marine is not only an indispensable part of our defenses but is *absolutely necessary* to our welfare, if we are to continue a great nation.

The place a merchant marine plays in the rise and decline of



Committee's Food Proclamation Used in 1917

nations, the debt Americans owe to their old merchant marine for upbuilding the nation and saving it when nothing else could have saved it, are so clearly set forth in the "*Heritage of Tyre,*" by William Brown Meloney, that he who reads it must henceforth regard American shipping as something closely allied to his own prosperity and his own protection. Therefore, when the re-creation of a merchant marine was about to be taken up by Congress we placed this book in the hands of every member of both houses of Congress.

Similarly, and at an opportune time, we sent to Congress, "*America Entangled,*" an exposé of the German spy system, by John Price Jones. Again, at an oppropriate moment, we sent "*Mobilizing America,*" by Arthur Bullard. Both contain information exceedingly useful to members of the national legislature.

Earlier in our campaign we distributed, among an extensive list of educators engaged in planning public instruction, the following books:

"*Industrial Preparedness,*" by C. E. Knoeppel.
"*Straight America,*" by Frances A. Kellor.
"*Peace Insurance,*" by Richard Stockton.
"*A Condensation of Upton's Military Policy of the United States.*"
"*An Adequate Naval Policy,*" by Henry A. Wise Wood.

Wherever opportunity has offered, or their need been indicated, these and other books, shown on page 16, have been liberally used to aid in awakening the indifferent, in converting the prejudiced, or in adding to the knowledge of patriotic fellow-workers.

POSTERS

LONG BEFORE the governmental machinery for food conservation was organized we conducted a special campaign which, we believe, exerted a great influence in arousing interest in saving and raising food. To the mayor, or other official of like authority, of every city, and to the sheriff of every county in the United States, we addressed a letter urging him to issue a food-saving proclamation. This proclamation called for care and economy in the use of foods, and advised the raising of more food. For the convenience of the officials addressed a form of proclamation was furnished them, page 18, so that no time might be lost in giving the document to the public. As an additional incentive to official action we supplied this proclamation when requested with the signature of the proper official appended. The proclamation was furnished in ten languages, and the message was thus carried to many who otherwise might never have been reached. At that time no provision had been made for translat-

THE NAVY NEEDS MEN; HELP TO RECRUIT! THE NAVY NEEDS OFFICERS AND SHIPS; TELL YOUR CONGRESSMAN!

WE ARE FOURTH NAVAL POWER IN SHIPS; FIFTH NAVAL POWER IN MEN!

THE ARMY NEEDS MEN; HELP TO RECRUIT! THE ARMY NEEDS GUNS, SHELLS—EVERYTHING; TELL YOUR CONGRESSMAN!

TAKE A HAND IN UPBUILDING THE NATION'S DEFENSES AND BE AN AMERICAN!

POST YOURSELF AND TELL YOUR CONGRESSMAN

ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

HENRY A. WISE WOOD, *Chairman* RAYMOND B. PRICE, *Treasurer*

James E. Clark, *Secretary*

HEADQUARTERS: FORTY-SECOND STREET BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY

HANG THIS UP

THE NAVY—Ships Under Construction or Not Yet Begun

THE NAVY (*Continued*)

THE ARMY

Information Furnished

Conference Committee on National Preparedness

WE NEED A NAVY NOW!

UNOFFICIAL STATEMENT OF OUR NEEDS

WE NEED AN ARMY NOW!

DEMAND MILITARY TRAINING FOR ALL YOUNG MEN!

Part of Our Peace-Time Propaganda

ing into other languages the President's proclamation relating to food and crops. In this, as in many other kinds of work, the Conference Committee remained unknown to the public, it being the Committee's aim to get the needed work done through local authorities wherever possible.

NATIONAL DEFENSE CHARTS

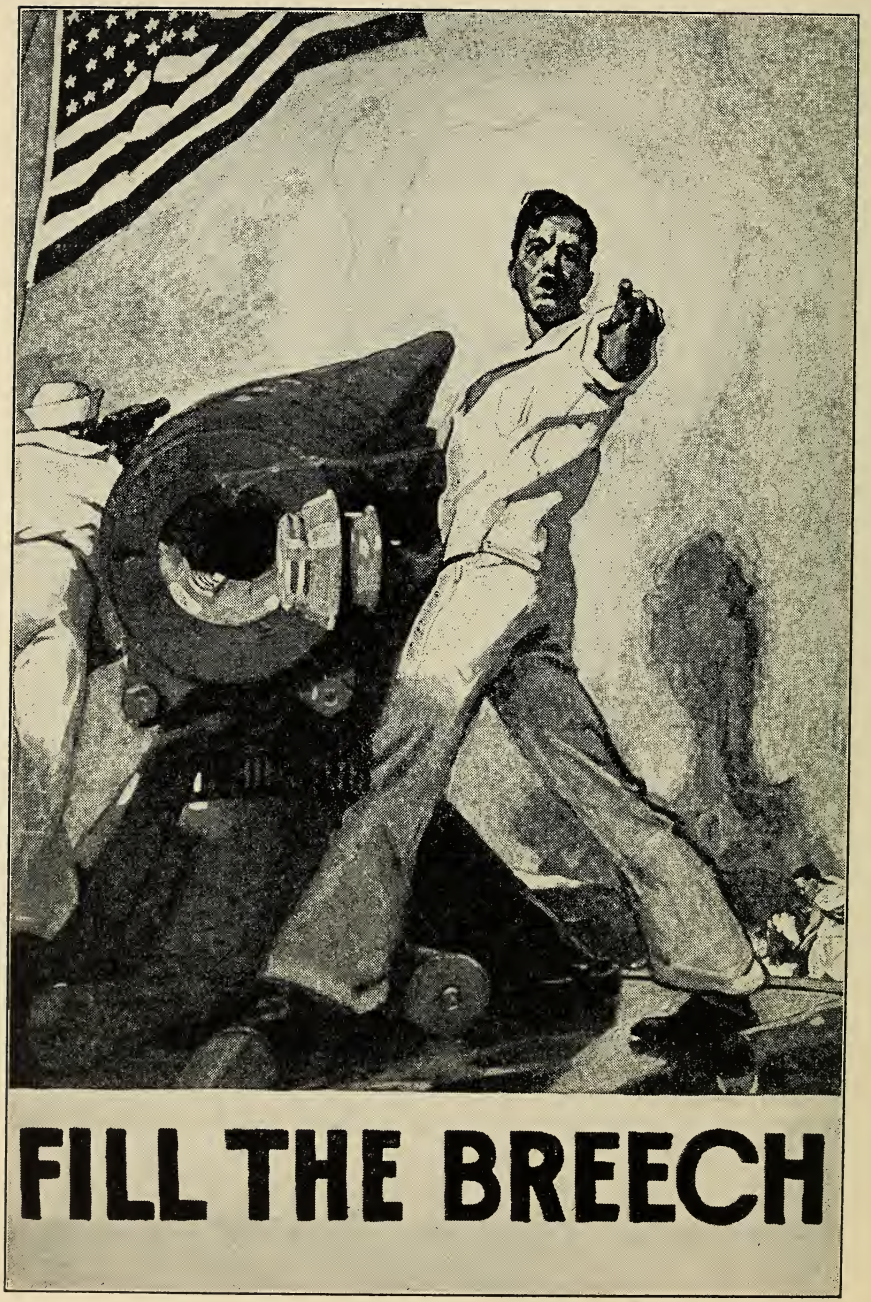
BEFORE AMERICA entered the war the public and the press had no organized means by which to keep informed of the progress made, or not made, in enlarging the army and navy. Information was to be found only in fragmentary, and often unreliable, newspaper reports, or in obscure official documents, and such information as was obtainable did not present as a whole the condition of our defenses.

The Conference Committee's National Defense Charts, page 20, were designed to cover this great need, and to enable the man in the street to get quickly a comprehensive view of how little we had and how much we needed if we were to be safe and effective. Furthermore, these charts were prepared to give the press and public a concise, comprehensive, and reliable statement of our defenses. It was our especial purpose to give press and public a way of following the progress made in upbuilding our forces, so that that progress might be kept track of. That such a publication was needed is evidenced by the fact that in official circles at Washington the chart was welcomed, and copies were constantly asked for. In Congress Chart No. 1 was made part of the official record. From newspapers and publicists there was a large and continuing demand for them.

This chart, in its various editions, has been displayed throughout all States, in stores, hotels, clubs, post-offices, shops, and railroad waiting-rooms. The railroads gave the most active cooperation in its distribution. The big systems, for instance, took charts in lots of thousands and posted them prominently in their stations, large and small. Speakers, writers, and editors have used the chart as an authoritative text-book. No other publication containing national defense data was in greater demand, nor in our opinion accomplished more effective work in teaching our people the practical side of defensive preparation during the pre-war period. And it proved to be of marked assistance to recruiting officers.

PICTORIAL POSTERS

IN THE SPRING OF 1917 the Committee conducted a recruiting-poster contest. Its purpose was to stimulate patriotic interest in recruiting. Prizes of $250 each were offered for the best army, and



Navy Recruiting Poster for which a Prize of $250 was Awarded

the best navy, poster. Approximately 300 designs were submitted, and all sections of the country were represented. The best posters submitted were taken to Washington for judgment. Those selected were by McClelland Barclay, of Chicago, for the Navy, page 22, and by Lawrence L. Wilbur, of New York, for the Army, page 3. The two posters were filmed and exhibited in moving picture theatres generally throughout the country, reaching, it is estimated, twenty-five millions of persons.

WASHINGTON BUREAU

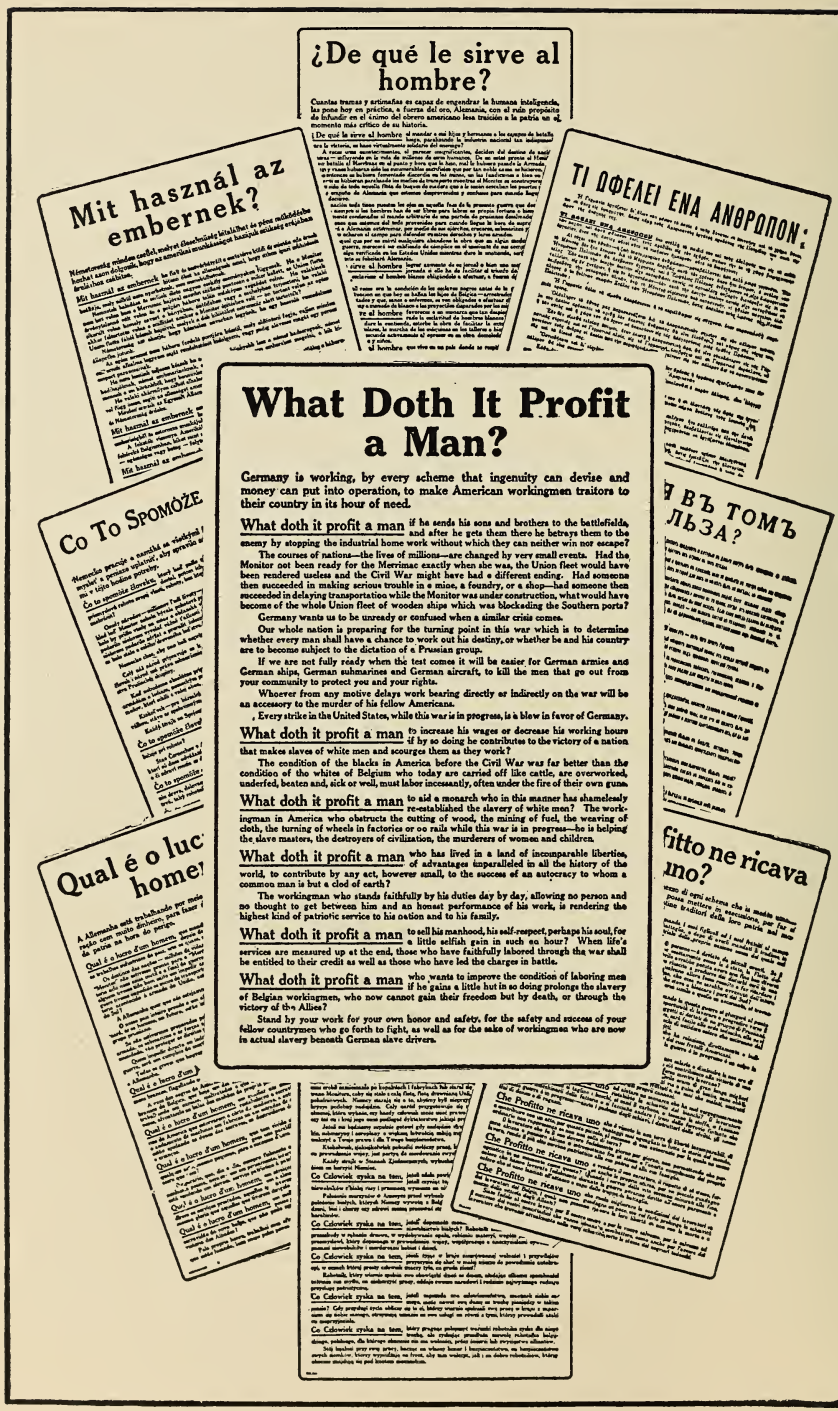
IN NOVEMBER, 1916, the Committee, desiring to keep in closer touch with the actual progress of our practical preparations, opened a bureau at Washington. Of this, Mr. Earl Hamilton Smith, now a Captain in the army, was placed in charge. Through this bureau needed information was obtained and supplied to our correspondents, and many other useful services were rendered, in connection with the passage of naval, military, and other defensive legislation.

The Washington interests of the Committee are now being handled by Mr. Raymond B. Price, its Treasurer, who is there maintaining at his own cost an extensive bureau of investigation, comprising statisticians, investigators, writers, and a clerical force. This force Mr. Price had placed continuously at the service of the Committee, while refusing to permit the latter to contribute to its maintenance.

The services that Mr. Price has rendered have been of inestimable value. His warning, in June, 1917, of the then impending Italian disaster, and his suggestion of the means by which it might be avoided, is one instance. Another, is his farseeing presentation in the Autumn of 1917 of our transportation difficulties, and his forecast of the predicament in which the country subsequently found itself. A third is his analysis of the world's shipping problem, which the Committee has distributed, and which should have been given immediate national consideration. And a fourth, his analysis of conditions at Washington, entitled "*Washington's Nine Months at War,*" has recently gone out.

THE PLATFORM

THE SIXTH CHANNEL through which the Committee has endeavored to reach public opinion has been the platform. During the first two years of its work, the Chairman, at no expense to the Committee, addressed more than one hundred and fifty audiences, in the territory lying between Maine and Tennessee, Utah and the Atlantic Coast.



First of a Series of Appeals to Labor

By this work among the people the anti-patriotic attitude of the Socialist, particularly the Russian-American Socialist, was first exposed, while many communities were brought to accept and heartily indorse the preparedness program, and universal military training and service.

Thus, a joint session of the legislature of the State of Utah, which had been called by the Governor for the purpose of hearing the Committee's Chairman, was converted from a position of passive opposition to one of enthusiastic support. And a number of other similar community conversions could be cited to prove the effectiveness of this branch of the Committee's work.

THE PREVENTION OF STRIKES

SINCE WARS ARE WON or lost as surely in the workshop as on the battle-field, the Committee believes it can do no more useful work than that of helping to keep the workman at his work. Therefore the Committee is circulating as part of its labor campaign an appeal to workingmen inciting them to stand by their work during the period of the war. Industrial bodies of all kinds are cooperating with us in this campaign, by posting our placard, "*What Doth It Profit a Man,*" which is reproduced on page 24. This appeal, which is doing extremely effective work, is furnished by us to be posted in mines, yards, and factories, in fourteen languages and in two sizes, a large placard, and a small slip to be inserted in pay envelopes.

Industrial plants usually ask for enough copies to post their buildings and to place one of the slips in each pay envelope. One corporation alone has used over 41,000 copies. Railroad companies have asked for and received over 110,000 copies of this appeal. Many hundreds of thousands of copies have been distributed. The appeal has been reproduced extensively as a full page newspaper advertisement, and in some instances has been paid for by parties unknown to this Committee. The head of an important Federal bureau in Washington has especially commended this propaganda and urged its wide dissemination. The circulation of this appeal is only the beginning of our work in this important field. As every strike that occurs while the war is in progress is a blow in favor of Germany, we feel that nothing must be left undone to prevent labor troubles.

Supplementing this appeal, through which we reach not only the workingman and his family directly, but reach them also through their church affiliation, is a second appeal, "*The Work That You Do Every Day,*" page 31, in connection with which a national campaign is being launched as this report goes to press.

Comments on the Appeal to Workingmen, entitled "WHAT DOTH IT PROFIT A MAN?"

"In reply to your favor of September 29 enclosing a placard bearing an appeal to workingmen, headed 'What Doth It Profit a Man' will say this appeal was read at a meeting of our Executive Committee and we think it is a splendid appeal. We can arrange to use these. We shall be glad to get any number that you are able to send, and assure you they will be well used."

ARKANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE, Little Rock, Ark.

"We have need of this kind of publicity in New Mexico just at this moment, and I am sure that by proper posting they will do much good."

NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF DEFENSE, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"I am very much impressed with the sentiment on these display cards and will be very glad to have a supply for distribution."

STATE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, Nashville, Tenn.

"This is an exceptionally good piece of national defense work and seems particularly appropriate to the Pacific Northwest at this time."

WEST COAST LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, Seattle, Wash.

"We thank you for your interest and wish to say, in this connection, that this appeal is an excellent one." *ANNISTON STEEL CO., Anniston Ala.*

"A stirring appeal to the patriotism of labor, entitled 'What Doth It Profit a Man?' has been issued by the Conference Committee on National Preparedness, Metropolitan Life Building, New York City.

"They should be hung in every factory and business house in the United States. They strike at the very root of an evil that threatens to undermine our industries. Constructive work of this character is badly needed and should receive our enthusiastic support. You can help by hanging some of them in your offices and factory."

BULLETIN OF NATIONAL CONFECTIONERS' ASS'N, Chicago, Ills.

"This is a very able poster and should be circulated broadcast."

ELKINS COAL & COKE CO., Morgantown, W. Va.

"We hope you may be able to reach every workingman in the United States with this impressive appeal and that he may realize the great responsibility resting upon his shoulders." *THE SOUTHERN COAL & COKE CO., Knoxville, Tenn.*

"Every mine in the country should be compelled to post these placards over its property." *THE HARLAN COAL CO., Louisville, Ky.*

"This appears to the writer to be one of the best articles he has ever read on the subject, and he should like about 1,500 copies to distribute to our workmen."

THE AMERICAN TOOL WORKS CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

FINANCE

TO THOSE WHO HAVE SO GENEROUSLY, and, many of them, constantly, sustained us in our endeavors the Committee wishes to say that all moneys contributed have gone wholly and directly for patriotic work. No fees or percentages of any description have been paid for the raising of our funds. The Committee has but two persons upon the payroll, its Secretary and his stenographer. All other services are rendered gratis. Such expense as the members of the Committee have incurred in their work they themselves have borne.

The accounts of the Committee are audited quarterly by Messrs. Haskins & Sells, Certified Public Accountants, who have done this work without charge as a patriotic service. These audits are open at all times to our subscribers.

It is a matter of interest that among the most generous supporters of our work have been Thomas A. Edison and the late Joseph H. Choate. Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge also has assisted, as have many other prominent men and women throughout the country. Our support has been liberal, and it has been national in scope.

REVIEW

A REVIEW OF THE PAST three years leads us to the conclusion that the preparedness campaign has borne fruit far beyond the hopes of the several organizations which inaugurated it, and which have conducted it so often under the most discouraging auspices.

While endeavoring to impress upon the Government and Congress the need for active and immediate preparations for military eventualities, the movement, it is now seen, succeeded in so educating the people at large, in the military and other necessities of the situation, that when the moment for action arrived the people arose without confusion, accepted the draft with alacrity, and submitted without complaint to the sacrifices of warfare.

In this connection the following paragraphs from a letter recently sent out by the Committee to its subscribers will be of interest:

> *"In view of our large foreign population and the well-laid plans of Germany to create trouble, we hold it to be no accident that radical changes in our national life incident to financing the war, to feeding and supplying our allies, and to raising our armies by conscription, are proceeding with so little friction.*
>
> *"The unanimity and resolution with which our people*

Comments on the Appeal to Workingmen, entitled "WHAT DOTH IT PROFIT A MAN?"

"This is the best that has been brought to our notice, and we would like some for display about our and other plants and public places."

GREILICK MANUFACTURING CO., Traverse City, Mich.

"We think a great deal of this poster, to the extent that we would like to put up several in prominent places in our factory. Therefore, if it is within reason for us to ask that you send us a quantity of these we would be glad to have you do so."

APPLETON MANUFACTURING CO., Batavia, Ills.

"Governor Boyle directs me to acknowledge his receipt of your letter of September 29 enclosing a copy of an appeal to workingmen, and to say that he is glad to avail himself of your offer to send a number of these placards for use in this State. If you are in a position to send these, the Governor will be grateful to you."

STATE OF NEVADA, Executive Chamber, Carson City, Nev.

"We consider this one of the best appeals we have so far seen, and trust it will do the good it logically should do."

WM. CRAMP & SONS SHIP & ENGINE BUILDING CO., Philadelphia.

Instructions from a high official at Washington to his subordinate:

"The Conference Committee on National Preparedness, 1 Madison Avenue, New York, is issuing a card entitled 'What Doth It Profit a Man.' It is excellent propaganda and if widely disseminated, should do much to combat the Socialiastic and I. W. W. matter now in circulation.

"It might be wise to urge the widest possible distribution of these cards. Many of the workers who are influenced by the I. W. W.'s printed arguments are just as easily turned by the sort of reasoning used in the committee's exhortation."

"This article is very good. We might use 5,000 to advantage."

W. J. HARAHAN, Pres.,
Seaboard Air Line Railway Co.

"It ['What Doth it Profit a Man'] is the best worded and conveys the most information of anything I have seen."

E. RAYMOND, Gen. Supt.,
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co.

"We consider this the very best thing of its kind that has come to our attention, and we would like to have copies for posting at our 100 operating mines."

C. L. GREEN, Director,
The Consolidation Coal Co.

Conference Committee on National Preparedness,
New York:

"Will there be any objection to printing here the card 'What Doth It Profit a Man'? You have our letter of the 28th, asking for 6,000 copies. Wire answer."

W. J. O'CONNOR,
Southern Bell Telephone Company, St. Louis, Mo.

have faced the war have been in no small measure due to the impress the movement for preparedness has made upon public opinion.

"Results far beyond expectation have attended our efforts to help keep public thought straight, to arouse a united national spirit, through the dissemination of compelling facts convincingly presented. The information we have placed before the public has been an invaluable aid to our people in official as well as private life, in readjusting themselves to the new conditions.

"Not the least useful of our efforts have been those indirectly applied. We have aided local organizations in various parts of the country and through them have been the means of inaugurating movements of far-reaching importance, though not always publicly identifying ourselves with these projects. To induce others to take up patriotic tasks has been and is our aim."

That the need for such an educational campaign as we have carried on is intensified, and not lessened, by the war is now plain to all. The propaganda of disloyalty can be met only by an energetically conducted counter campaign of patriotic education among our people. Many speak of liberty who need to be taught its worth and the means by which it is to be secured. It is our task to interpret the word in terms of practical patriotism.

One of Germany's most powerful weapons of conquest is propaganda. What she has achieved in Italy and Russia we know. We must expect that here also she will be unsleeping in her efforts to create similar trouble for us, especially in the quarters that have already aided her cause. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the Committee's campaign, which is being conducted to create a sound foundation of practical patriotism among the identical classes upon which German propaganda is now at work, should be pushed with untiring energy. Not a moment should be lost, for everywhere are apparent the effects of the intellectual poison which Germany is spreading throughout the world.

All who wish to participate in this most necessary work may place funds in our hands with the assurance that they will be used with precision and effect.

HENRY A. WISE WOOD,
Chairman.

MARTINSBURG EVENING JOURNAL
Max von Schlegell, *Editor and Publisher*
Martinsburg, W. Va.

HENRY A. WISE WOOD, Esq., April 27, 1917.
Chairman, Conference Committee,
New York City.

My Dear Sir:

Recently I received a circular from you to which I replied that it was the first matter of the kind to which I had given serious thought. To this you replied with a very kind letter which was a great deal of pleasure to me. Now, in reply to your request of April 25 regarding the formation of a Home Defense Committee, I want to show you just how much good your letter really did in my case.

You taught me that the preparedness idea was right. I asked our Mayor to call together a few representative citizens—preferring that he do it owing to my German name—and he called together fifty men to whom I outlined an organization plan and the following objective:

"To inculcate the spirit of patriotism, assist in increasing enlistments, assist in making a military census of Berkeley County, provide for home defense, and to provide personal representatives at home for the boys who go to the front that they may have a complete sense of security regarding their affairs at home. Also to encourage the increased production of food."

My plan was adopted as offered and the name is "Preparedness League of Berkeley County." Mayor P. W. Leiter is the chairman.

My thanks to you again for interesting me in these matters Anything more that you would suggest?

Yours very truly,

S-vS (Signed) MAX VON SCHLEGELL.

The Work That You Do Every Day

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the babies of France and Belgium who were impaled on bayonets and carried off over the shoulders of German soldiers—**that your baby may never be in danger of a like death.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the little boys in the invaded districts of Europe who have been crucified—**that your own boy may not be in danger of being crucified.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the little girls of Belgium and France who have been carried into a slavery far worse than death—**that your daughter may not be in danger of thus falling a victim to German barbarians.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the mothers of Europe who have seen their children slaughtered and their husbands with bound hands driven away to a fate unknown—**that the mothers here may not see similar processions in your own streets.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the white-haired women of Belgium and France who have seen honest men dig their own graves—**that the white-haired of your family may not suffer a like agony.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the Allied soldiers who have been crucified upon doors because they fought for civilization and justice—**that justice may be done you and yours.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the beautiful cities, villages, orchards and fields of Europe, now blackened wastes—**that your own beautiful towns and fields may not be turned into places which men will avoid.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the once happy homes in Europe which the Hun burned after murdering the inmates—**that your home may not become the funeral pyre of your family.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the memory of the nations that have been crushed and scattered—**that your own nation may not be destroyed and that your people may not be driven forth like the migrating multitudes who have died in the fields and the highways.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the manhood that is in you—that you may not desert your brother who has gone to the battlefront, that you may not desert your nation now that it needs you, that you may not be tricked into imperiling the safety of your wife, your daughter, your mother, **when the smooth-tongued enemies of your country come whispering to you.**

LET the work that you do every day be dedicated—

To the manhood that is in you, that you shall have no remorse when broken men come back from the battlefront—**so that empty sleeves and sightless eyes shall not as instruments of your own conscience reproach you** by day and haunt you by night because you at home failed to support our men while they fought in France.

Any person desiring to know the authority for statements of German atrocity made in the foregoing may obtain the information by writing the Conference Committee on National Preparedness.

EXPOSING SUBTLE GERMAN PROPAGANDA

Letter to Clergymen Warning Them of the Dangers of the Kaiser's Claim of an Alliance With God.

JANUARY 26, 1918.

Reverend Sir:

You are familiar with the repeated and confident declaration of the German Emperor that he goes hand in hand with God. This declaration sustains and strengthens the morale of his soldiers and people. That it has done so effectively is apparent.

But have you observed the growing effect of his statement upon our own people? Notwithstanding the fact that it is common knowledge that he has undermined Christianity by following a policy diametrically opposed to it in his prosecution of the war, his persistent claim of God-supported righteousness is commencing to have an extremely evil and insidious influence upon our people, especially when this claim is put forth in connection with German military successes.

You well know the psychological effect of emotional reiteration, especially in connection with stupendous events which seemingly give to it the color of truth.

This insolent God-claiming attitude of the German Emperor our people treat with silent contempt, or utter indifference, but it is just here that a serious mistake is being made by us. We are permitting this blasphemous propaganda to fall upon the minds of our whole population, without our offering any active and effective opposition to its acceptance. What assurance have we therefore that it is not taking root; that there is not forming in many minds an unspoken fear that perhaps the Kaiser is right? If this be so, after the fear may come belief, perhaps even among many religious men in the Army.

It appears to me that this repeated enemy assertion of divine aid is a slow, subtle, dangerous poison which may become instilled in our people by our public prints, and helped on by enemy aliens among us.

Need I remind you of the strength of the man who asserts that he is in the right, and that God is with him? Need I remind you of the handicap of the man in any station of life, much less on the battlefield, who is not fortified with the profound belief that his cause is just?

You possess in large measure the power to counteract this evil, to hearten and strengthen our people at home and abroad, and I ask you as an act of religious patriotism and justice to use your prerogative to destroy this sacrilegious propaganda, which has already been allowed to run too long without resistance. Will you not raise your voice against it?

I shall be glad to have you write me if you will, suggesting how you believe we can best marshal our people to resist the injection of such poison into the subconsciousness of our nation.

The enclosed article, "Christ, or the Sword?", I am sending as a suggestive summary of the spiritual damage that Germany has done the Christian world, and shall be glad to have you use it in any manner that you see fit. If you wish additional copies for distribution we shall send them gratis.

Faithfully yours,
HENRY A. WISE WOOD,
Chairman.

CHRIST, or the SWORD?

By HENRY A. WISE WOOD

THIS is history's gravest hour. Not since Christ stood before Pilate has there been so momentous a trial of moral systems as that which is taking place.

Two theories of life are striving for mastery. A civilization that is the legitimate outgrowth of Christianity, expressive of kindliness, good faith, and democratic tolerance, is at death's grip with a reincarnation of ancient barbarism, weaponed stealthily by modern science behind a mask of Christ, which has sprung suddenly to the world's reconquest.

Thus the old morality once more confronts the new. The spiritual power enthroned by Christ in the hearts of men is tempted to its overthrow by the gentleness of its faith, while the barbaric conception of rule by force alone, in full resurgence, is poised to slay it with the very discoveries of Christendom.

Into this struggle the West has gone,—not for material or political reasons but for moral reasons. The Christian's heritage is assailed, and we are offering possessions and life in its defense. If the Christian world ever has had need since medieval times to dedicate its all to the duty of snatching the sword from the foul hand of destructive infidelism, it is now. Today the modern crusade is afoot, and in the spirit of crusader America has entered the war.

Those who compute its losses in terms of property, or life, have no spiritual conception of its costs. The dead will be replaced and the wreckage restored, but not soon the glorious flower-like structure of Chivalry which, honored even by the Saracen of old, has been slowly molding the peoples into a single family, molding them while they fought. Its beauty, which men loved, its strength, in which they trusted even upon the field, and, with these, its usefulness, all, born of the heroism of nineteen centuries, have been struck from the Christian era by one of civilization's greatest debtors, now turned renegade.

If, in this crisis, Christendom stand less firm in its faith than did its martyrs in the arena at Rome; if, in its hour of suffering, it be not ready to say with Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, "*O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done;*" if, in having said with Him to the aggressor, "*for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword,*" it hold not faithfully to its oath; if, having forsaken its ideals to make a coward peace that fails to draw the fangs of the Serpent Power, Christendom take the latter not stripped of its venom again to its breast, then indeed shall the moral law among peoples pass from use, and all men sleep upon weapons.

Human institutions are again in the crucible. Thence will arise a civilization based upon the spiritual conception of life, or the material. Antagonal codes of morality cannot survive as equals in the same world; one will prevail. If the West have the power and fortitude to endure to the end, and succeed, humanity will ascend to undreamed-of heights of opportunity and freedom; if it have not, and fail, what then shall save both from the craftily directed enginery of this soulless scientific barbarism, that, blasphemously feigning the approval of God to palsy a trustful Christendom, is gathering up the peoples of the earth?

(Because the spiritual aspects of the war are being overshadowed by its political aspects, this has recently been prepared and sent to the leading clergymen throughout the country, with the suggestion that they work its thought into their sermons.)

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Metropolitan
432 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

January 7, 1918.

My dear Mr. Wise Wood:

Three cheers for you! I want to tell you how much I appreciate the work you have done for this country. You have shown yourself a patriot.

Faithfully yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Mr. Henry A. Wise Wood,
25 Madison Avenue, City.

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